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NOW, AT LAST -- THE NEW
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THAT THING FROM THE WATERFALL-- IT'S DROWNING MY MYSTIC FLAME!
AS IT SHALL SWIFTLY DROWN YOU, DEMON!
WRATH OF THE WATER WIZARD!
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THE SAGA OF JOHNNY BLAZE: Once, not so long ago, he was the pawn of Satan. He has since been freed. But, for reasons he cannot yet comprehend, he still possesses Satan-spawned strength and the searing touch of hellfire. Whether these supernatural powers are a blessing or a curse, he does not know. Yet.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE GHOST RIDER! ™

SCRIPT JIM SHOOTER · PENCILS DON HECK · INKS DON NEWTON · COLORS DON W. · EDITING ARCHIE GOODWIN · PLOT GERRY CONWAY

WRATH OF THE WATER WIZARD!

HEY, HE MOVES OUT PRETTY FAST ON THAT THING! SOMEDAY THE ANGEL AND THE GHOST RIDER WILL HAVE TO RACE!
COME ON, HERC! DON'T TELL ME YOU FALL FOR THAT SPOOK ACT!
FOR NOW, HERCULES IS CONTENT TO SEE HIM RACE AWAY!
JUST HOURS AGO, THE CHAMPIONS BATTLED SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE GHOST RIDER. THEIR NEED FOR HIS HELL-BORN POWER IS OVER NOW, AND HE DEPARTS IN A MANNER THAT IS HIS ALONE.

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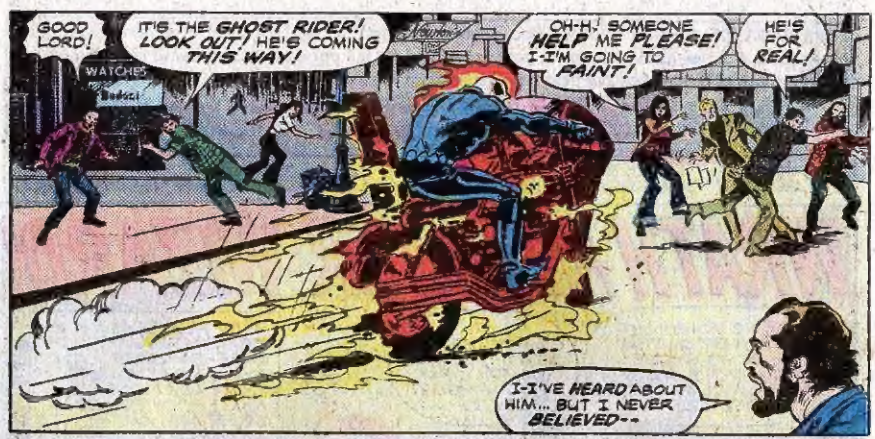
GOOD LORD!
IT'S THE GHOST RIDER! LOOK OUT! HE'S COMING THIS WAY!
WATCHES
OH-H! SOMEONE HELP ME PLEASE! I-I'M GOING TO FAINT!
HE'S FOR REAL!
I-I'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM... BUT I NEVER BELIEVED--

HE'S ALMOST OUT OF SIGHT ALREADY! FUNNY... HE'S BEEN A VALIANT ALLY... AND YET I CAN'T HELP FEELING A BIT... RELIEVED WHEN HE'S GONE!
AYE, MILADY! HIS VISAGE IS LIKE UNTO A DEMON'S! I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO FULLY TRUST HIM!

"I AIN'T ONE FOR SUPERSTITION," IVAN HALF-WHISPERS, "BUT... HE CLAIMS HIS POWER CAME FROM HELL!
"I... BELIEVE HIM.
GOT AWAY FROM THE CROWDS ON THE MAIN DRAG TOO FAST FOR ANY-ONE TO FOLLOW... NOT THAT ANYONE WOULD DARE!

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THE MYSTIC FLAME CYCLE REARS UP ON ITS BACK WHEEL, ROCKETING FORWARD AS THE THROTTLE ROLLS WIDE OPEN UNDER A GLOVED, SKELETAL PALM...
THE PRESSURE ON THE THROTTLE NEVER SLACKENS, AS MERE INCHES BEFORE IMPACT, HELLFIRE ERUPTS FROM GHOST RIDER'S OUTSTRETCHED FINGERS, AND BLAZING TIRES CATCH TRACTION ON A CURVING, FIERY RAMP...
EXCEPT FOR THE HISS OF THE WIND AND THE QUIET CRACKLE OF THE FLAMES...
...THE INCREDIBLE MANEUVER IS COMPLETED IN EERIE SILENCE...
DONE! AND THE NEED FOR THE GHOST RIDER IS ENDED!
JOHNNY BLAZE CANNOT RIDE A CYCLE OF SOLID FIRE--
--SO IT MUST BE REAB-SORBED!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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THE TRANSFORMATION IS QUICK, BUT NOT WITHOUT PAIN...
DID...IT...AGAIN! I... REALLY CAN... CONTROL THE CHANGE NOW...
...BUT IT SURE... PUTS ME THROUGH THE WRINGER!
CAN'T REST NOW! TIME FOR JOHNNY BLAZE TO BE AT WORK.
NO TIME TO GO HOME AND GET MY BIKE! I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A CAB TO DELAZNY STUDIOS--
--EVEN THOUGH MR. DELAZNY HATES FOR HIS TOP STUNT RIDER TO BE SEEN WITHOUT A CHOPPER UNDER HIM!
IF I HAD MY BIKE THE WAY I FEEL NOW, I'D PROBABLY FALL OFF--AND DELAZNY WOULD HATE THAT EVEN MORE!
SECONDS LATER, A WEARY JOHNNY BLAZE SETTLES INTO THE BACK SEAT OF A TAXI, AND WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HIS OWN SPLITTING HEADACHE, BECOMES OBLIVIOUS TO EVERYTHING...
...INCLUDING A RATHER NONDESCRIPT VAN...
...WHICH PULLS OVER AS HE RIDES AWAY...
...AND PARKS ILLEGALLY IN FRONT OF LOS ANGELES' LARGEST BROKERAGE HOUSE...
KRAK

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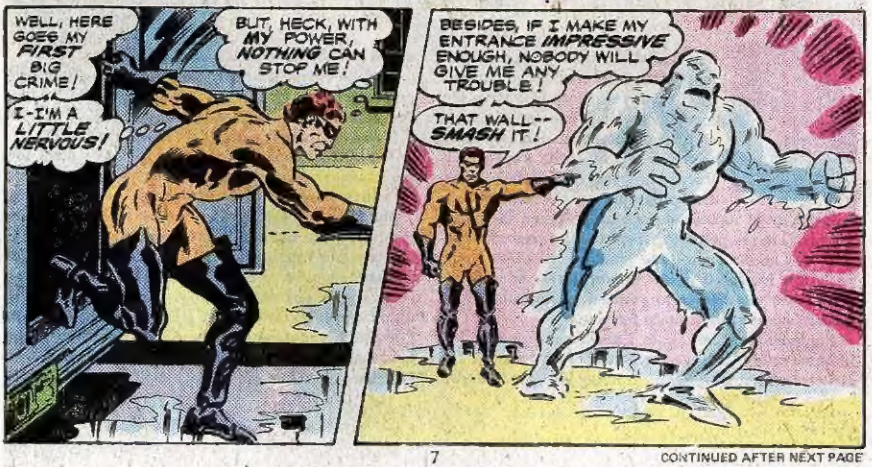
LOOK!
MAN, I--I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! IT'S GOTTA BE MY EYES!
EEEK!
WHA--! A THING--A MONSTER BUSTIN' OUT OF THE FIRE HYDRANT!
BLAM!
SOMEBODY GET A COP!
HELP! HELP!


WELL, HERE GOES MY FIRST BIG CRIME!
I-I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS!
BUT, HECK, WITH MY POWER, NOTHING CAN STOP ME!
BESIDES, IF I MAKE MY ENTRANCE IMPRESSIVE ENOUGH, NOBODY WILL GIVE ME ANY TROUBLE!
THAT WALL--SMASH IT!

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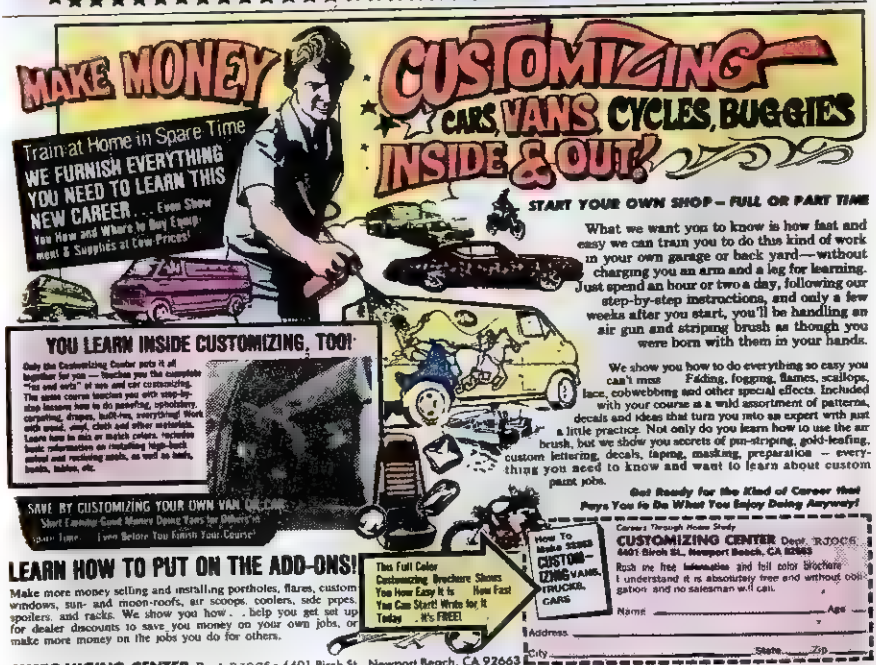
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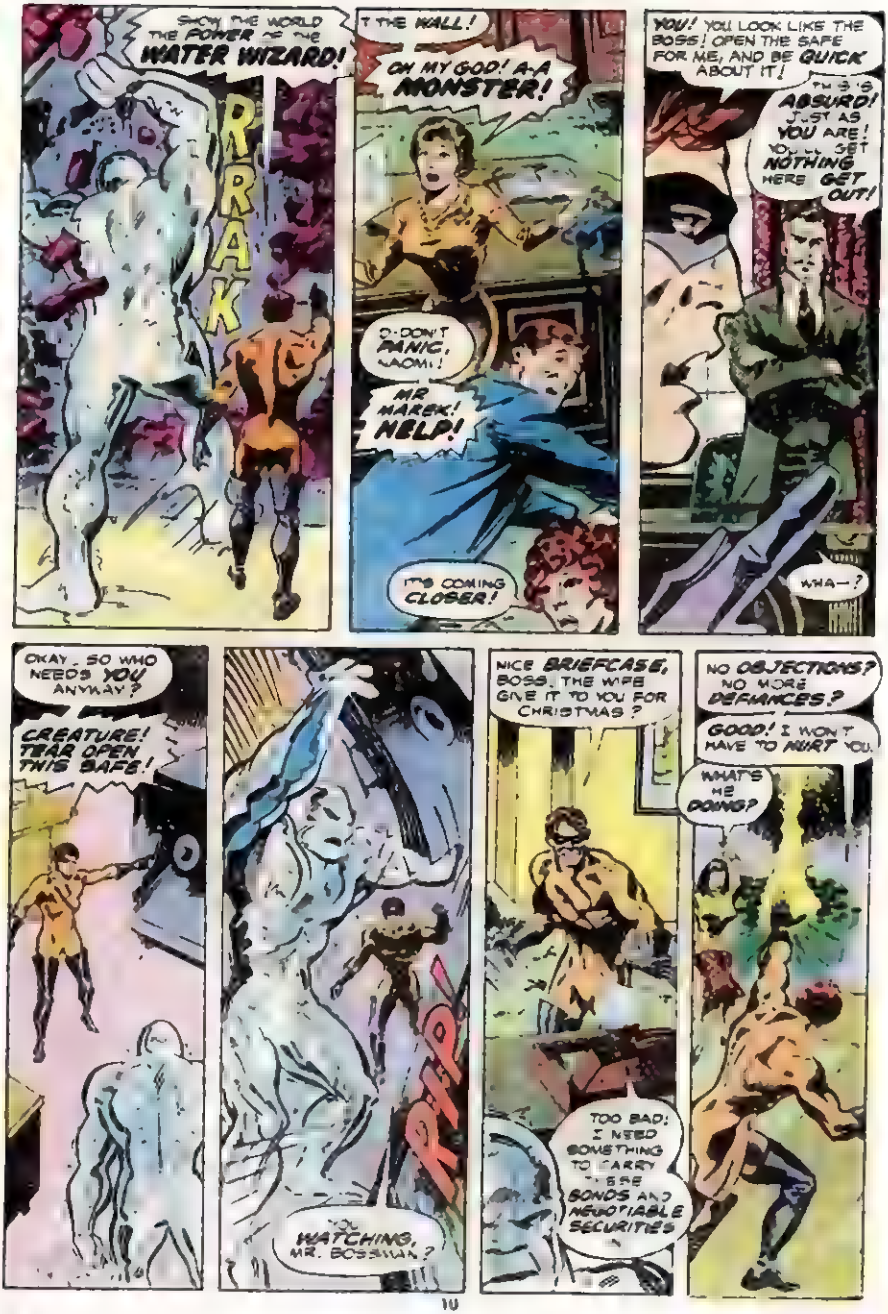
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RRAK
T THE WALL!
OH MY GOD! A-A MONSTER!
D-DON'T PANIC, MOM!
MR MAREK! HELP!
IT'S COMING CLOSER!
YOU! YOU LOOK LIKE THE BOSS! OPEN THE SAFE FOR ME, AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!
THIS IS ABSURD! JUST AS YOU ARE! YOU'LL GET NOTHING HERE GET OUT!
WHA—?
OKAY. SO WHO NEEDS YOU ANYWAY?
CREATURE! TEAR OPEN THIS SAFE!
RIP!
YOU WATCHING, MR. BOSSMAN?
NICE BRIEFCASE, BOSS. THE WIFE GIVE IT TO YOU FOR CHRISTMAS?
TOO BAD: I NEED SOMETHING TO CARRY THESE BONDS AND NEGOTIABLE SECURITIES
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GOOD! I WON'T HAVE TO HURT YOU.
WHAT'S HE DOING?

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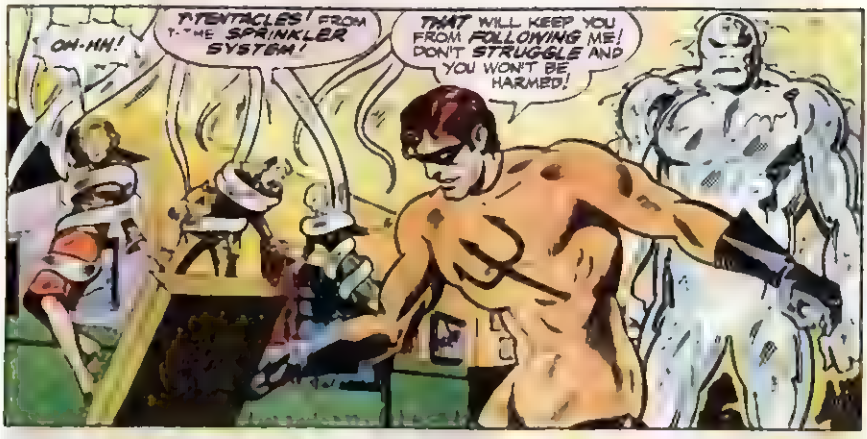

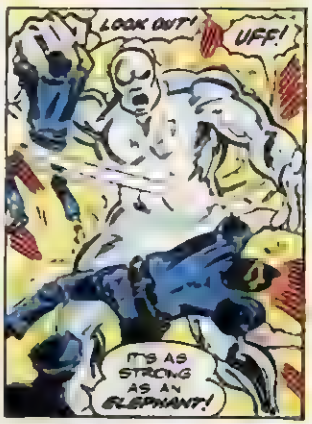

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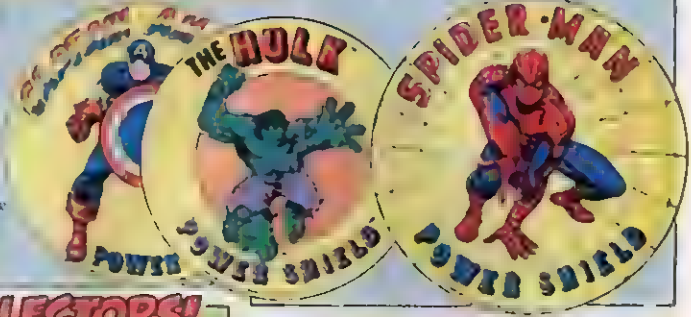

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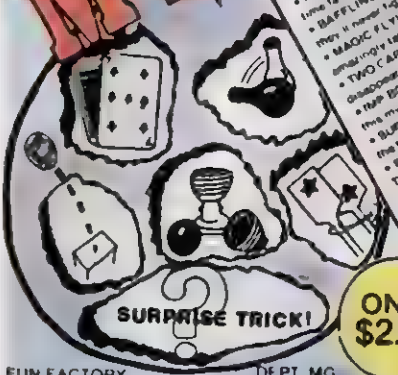

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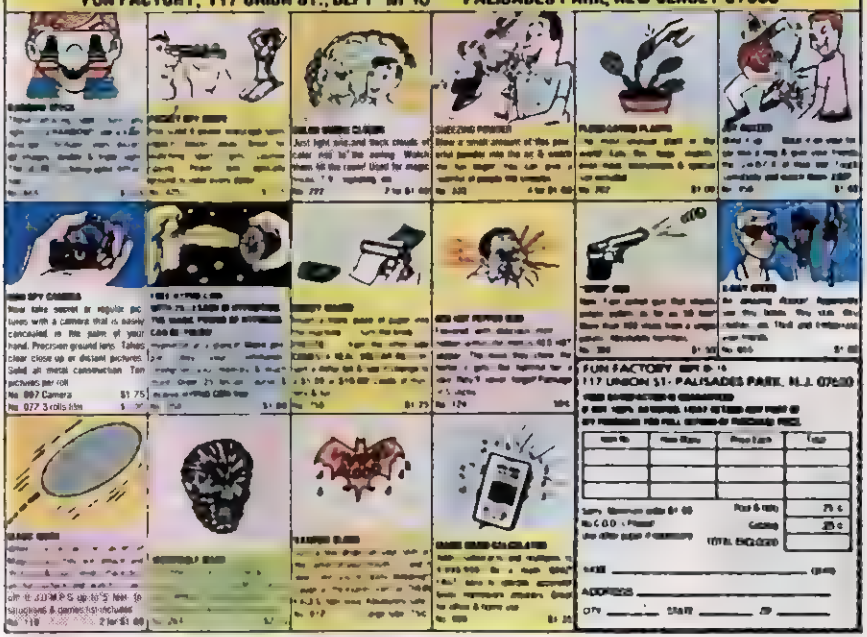

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HOURS LATER, AT THE APARTMENT OF JOHNNY BLAZE...
ROXIE! GEORGE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
JUST DROPPED BY. HOW'D IT GO AT THE STUDIO TODAY, JOHNNY?
NOT BAD. WE SHOT ALL YOUR STUNTS FOR THE NEXT EPISODE OF "STUNT-MASTER" EXCEPT ONE! I'LL DO THAT TOMORROW!
JOHNNY... THE REASON WE CAME-- WELL, IT'S ABOUT COOT--
COOT? SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM? HE SEEMED TO BE HIS USUAL CRABBY SELF WHILE WE WERE FILMING TODAY.
MIND IF I GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT WHILE WE TALK?
OF COURSE NOT... BUT--
--HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED LATELY THAT COOT'S BEEN... DIFFERENT... I MEAN... KIND OF COLD AND DISTANT?
I'VE NOTICED IT TOO, JOHNNY! ESPEC.ALLY YESTERDAY--
--I WAS WATCHING COOT DIRECT KAREN AND GEORGE IN A PROMO SPOT. USUALLY HE DOESN'T TAKE CALLS DURING A SESSION, BUT--
YES, I SEE. ALL RIGHT.
AND THEN HE LEFT-- WITHOUT A WORD!
COOT? COOT!
IT JUST ISN'T LIKE COOT TO PULL A TRICK LIKE THAT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT!
WHY MAKE ANYTHING OF IT?
JOHNNY... I KNOW YOU'VE HAD YOUR OWN TROUBLES LATELY, WITH THE POLICE,* AND... OTHER THINGS, BUT YOU DO CARE ABOUT COOT--
--DON'T YOU?
*LAST SEEN--ARCH.
SURE I DO, ROXY! AND I CARE ABOUT YOU, TOO-- MORE THAN YOU KNOW!
I JUST DON'T THINK YOU'RE GIVING COOT ENOUGH CREDIT!

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COOT'S A BIG BOY NOW! HE CAN HANDLE HIS OWN--
BLAZE, YOU HAVE ALL THE SENSITIVITY OF A BRICK!
GOOD BYE!
JOHNNY... DID YOU MEAN WHAT YOU SAID? DO YOU CARE ABOUT ME..THE WAY YOU USED TO?
DO I? CAN I? WHEN KAREN PAGE MEANS AS MUCH TO ME AS SHE DOES?
JOHNNY--?
WHILE JOHNNY BLAZE SEARCHES FOR WORDS TO EXPLAIN FEELINGS HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND--
--AT A WAREHOUSE MILES AWAY--
-- TWO SINISTER FIGURES EXULT!
WE DID IT, MOLE! WE'RE RICH!
THIS IS MERELY THE BEGINNING FOR THE WATER WIZARD, PETE!
WE DON'T HAVE TO STOP AT BEING RICH! WITH YOUR POWER AND MY BRAINS, WE CAN OWN THIS STATE!
YEAH? YEAH, I GUESS SO! I WAS WORRIED BEFORE, BUT--
BOY, IT'S STILL HARD TO BELIEVE THIS ALL STARTED--
"-- WHEN I WAS WOUNDED IN 'NAM BY THAT COMB ROCKET.
THIS ONE'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL SHIP! CALL A CHOPPER!
BUT SIR--! THERE'S A TYPHOON BUILDING!

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"I-I **REMEMBER** HEARING THE BEAT OF THE **BLADES**, AND THE **THUNDER**--AND THINKING I WAS STILL IN A **FIREFIGHT**!

ARMY

"LATER THEY TOLD ME WE **JUST MADE** IT UNDER THE WEATHER.

"A FEW SECONDS LATER THEY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO **LAND**!

"THE SEAS WERE **TOO HEAVY** FOR THE DOCS TO TRY NORMAL SURGERY--SO THEY PUT ME UNDER AN EXPERIMENTAL **RAY-GIZMO** THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO STIMULATE MY CELLS AND HELP KEEP ME **ALIVE** WHILE THEY WAITED OUT THE STORM...

" THAT'S WHEN IT **HAPPENED**!

THE LIGHTNING CAUSED A **POWER SURGE**! THE RAY'S CIRCUITS **FUSED** AND **SHEER ENERGY** POURED INTO MY BODY...

HE SHOULD BE **DEAD**... BUT HIS VITAL SIGNS ARE **STRONGER**!

"EVEN THOUGH I WAS **HEAVILY SEDATED** I COULD **FEEL** IT RIPPING THROUGH MY CELLS.

"I RECOVERED QUICK AFTER THAT. THEY **STUDIED** ME FOR AWHILE BEFORE I WAS RELEASED AND DISCHARGED.

"THEY NEVER FOUND NOTHING **DIFFERENT** ABOUT ME--

"--BUT **I** DID! SOMEHOW, AFTER THAT I COULD **CONTROL WATER**... WITH A WAVE OF MY HAND!"

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BUT YOU NEVER DID ANYTHING WITH IT! FOR YEARS YOU HID YOUR ABILITY, AFRAID OF BEING CALLED A FREAK-- UNTIL I CAME ALONG AND GAVE YOUR POWER A PURPOSE!
YEAH! YOU AND ME ARE GONNA MAKE IT BIG!
SUDDENLY.
I HAVE HEARD ENOUGH!
FACE THE ENFORCER-- AND HEAR MY OFFER!
ANTHONY INC
WHA--! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS, PETE! WASTE HIM!
YOU WOULD FIND THAT MORE DIFFI-CULT THAN YOU IMAGINE!
AND VERY FOOLISH! FOR I AM PREPARED TO PAY YOU ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO USE YOUR UNIQUE TALENTS--
-- TO ELIMINATE THIS MAN!
I RECOGNIZE THAT "FLAMING SKULL" MASK! THAT'S THE GHOST RIDER-- THAT MOTORCYCLE STUNT-GUY!
SURE, WHY NOT? IT'LL BE A CINCH! BUT IF YOU DON'T COME UP WITH THE MILLION-- YOU'RE NEXT!
THE ENFORCER NODS AND THE PACT IS SEALED. THEN HE IS GONE, LOST IN SHADOWS.
THE NEXT MORNING, AT DELAZNY STUDIOS...
HEY! STOP AND SHOW YOUR IDENTI--
MORNING, ARMSTRONG. BLOOD PRESSURE STILL HIGH?
BLAZE! I SWEAR I'M GONNA--!
WISH I HAD BEEN ABLE TO SORT OUT MY FEELINGS ABOUT ROXY AND KAREN LAST NIGHT. AFTER ROXY LEFT, I WAS JUST MORE CONFUSED!
'COURSE, I'M CONFUSED ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS LATELY--

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Dear Marvel,

GHOST RIDER #21 was a literary achievement— to those of us who indulge in this enlightening, higher form of literature known as comics, anyway. You seem to have spun a neat little mystery for us this time. What is this electronic gizmo for which Gladdy was willing to kill to obtain? And why did he think GR had it? Intriguing!

It was good to see the previously mentioned Gladiator, one of my favorite villains (is this before or after his skirmish with Daredevil? He sure gets around...), and the Eel as well. Oh slippery. Isn't one of my favorites, but I enjoy a bonus character anytime, especially if it's a villain.

And Gil Kane, if you're listening—I'm sorry to see you go after only one issue of GHOST RIDER, but I still look forward to seeing your art on DAREDEVIL. And I like Don Heck almost as much, so I know I won't be disappointed. So, until Johnny Blaze joins the Campfire girls, make mine Marvel.

M. E. Robbins
230 North Venado Ave.
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Dear Marvel,

GR #21 did indeed show a "new" Ghost Rider. Here we see a Johnny Blaze who is now totally uninhibited by his problems with Satan. The story greatly emphasized the fearsome aspect of the Ghost Rider and the "stronger than ever" feeling mentioned in GR #19. I was a little concerned, however, with the phrase about convincing people "that Johnny Blaze and the Rider aren't the same guy!"

Gil Kane did a typically fine job on the issue, although something seems to be missing in the first battle sequence with the Gladiator.

In closing, let me just give you my wishes for the best of luck—if you plan on clearing up the issue of Johnny's affections towards Karen and Roxanne!

Ken Hart
540 Lincoln Ave
Staten Island, NY 10306

Dear Friends,

Your recent moves with this series have surely been wise ones, from all points of view. Some people may take issue with the molding of the book into a more super-heroic vein, but it seems clear to me that this is your wisest option. The Satanist overtones of the book were beginning to get old, and the so-called *new* Ghost Rider makes a fine addition to your super-hero line-up.

Storywise, "Deathplay" injected plenty of action and super-villains into the book, which should spike the interest of readers. However, there are certain things that take building, and very few of them were introduced this issue. First off, the Johnny Blaze, Karen Page romance is a bit questionable. Last thing I knew, Johnny and Roxy had their arms around each other, pledging undying love. True, Karen is quite a suitable romantic interest for our hero—as well as providing a neat continuity tie-in with DAREDEVIL—but please take time to explain such changes.

It was a real pleasure to see the Eel and the Gladiator side-by-side, even if it was only to try to kill one another. These mainline Marvel villains are among my favorites.

Another extremely pleasing thing about this issue was the brief appearance of art by Gil Kane. Gil has really got it together, and his powerful style certainly ranks high in my book. But what's up? Seems to me that since he's left both the INHUMANS and GHOST RIDER, he's left without a book.

Larry Twiss
227 Fox Run
King of Prussia, PA 19406

What he's up to is DAREDEVIL, Lar. And that's not to mention JOHN CARTER, WARLORD OF MARS! The latter book will soon be coming your way from the House of Ideas and the tattered typewriter of one Marvin Wolfman. And on the former, your very own Ghost Writer, Jim Shooter, is teaming with Gil—as of issue #146—to push the Man Without Fear to even greater heights!

And as for the Blaze/Page/Simpson triangle, which Ken Hart also mentioned, we can only say that Johnny is probably as confused by it all as you are. Even your faithful armadillo doesn't know for sure. However, the Shooter has been heard to chuckle a time or two from his doorside desk, so you can rest assured that *something's* about to happen!

Dear Bullpen,

What can I say, but terrific! Issue #21 of GHOST RIDER was the best one yet. The art by Gil and Sam was great. The story was superb. If this keeps up, GR will be number one! Keep up the good work.

Steve Wright
10341 Alexander
South Gate, CA 90280

Dear Guys,

Don't super villains ever get a rest? First the Gladiator breaks out of jail and attacks Daredevil in DD #140, and then he turns up in Los Angeles, some 2800 miles away, looking for something that the Eel has. And Ghost Rider K.O.'s him there. And all that occurred in a matter of days. Be reasonable.

Bill Fleischmann
129 Cinder Road
Timonium, MD 21093

Oh, we don't know about that, Bill. Maybe Gladdy's just a glutton for punishment. Anyway, now that Shooter is writing both DAREDEVIL and GHOST RIDER, we know that he'll probably get around to explaining the Gladiator's cross country sprint sooner or later.

Dear Ghost Writers:

Issue # 21 was great. "Deathplay" is the best story you guys have done so far. I really wasn't looking forward to the change in writers on GHOST RIDER, but this story was just as good as—or maybe even better than—last issue's great cross-over by Marv, John, and Don. I hope you guys keep up the good work.

And another thing, how about making GHOST RIDER a monthly comic? I can hardly wait the sixty days between issues. Do you think it could be done?

Jerry Wallace
7013 Comanche Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76135

Could be, Jer! Tell ya what, if you can get a hundred thousand close friends to subscribe to GHOST RIDER, we can almost guarantee that it will go monthly!

Seriously, though, sales *are* the ultimate governing factors in a book's frequency. And if GR's sales go up, then he'll be riding your way every thirty days instead of every sixty. It's all up to you!

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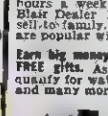

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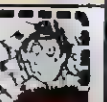

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OH, WELL!
PLAYING DETECTIVE HAS NEVER BEEN MY LONG SUIT THE ANSWER COULD BE RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE AND I'D NEVER KNOW IT!
HMPH! BETTER START THINKING ABOUT TODAY'S BIG STUNT!
SOON
GOT TO RIDE THROUGH THE WATERFALL! HOPE THIS CRATE DOESN'T STALL OUT!
GET THOSE CAMERAS IN! I WANT THE AUDIENCE TO FEEL THAT WALL OF WATER CRASHING DOWN ON THEM!
SUDDENLY...
WHA--?! THIS ISN'T IN THE SCRIPT!

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MOMENTUM CARRIED ME INTO THE WATER FALLS... WATER POUNDING ME... BUT HANDS STILL GRABBING!
GOT TO CHANGE FROM JOHNNY BLAZE TO...
...THE GHOST RIDER!
AND NOW I HAVE THE HELL-SPAWNED STRENGTH--
--TO BREAK FREE!
THE STUNT-BIKE SURGES FORWARD, TO CONTROLS SUDDENLY COMMANDED BY HANDS THAT COULD CRUSH THEM TO DUST.
CAN'T SWERVE IN TIME TO AVOID THE LIGHTS! GOT TO CRASH THROUGH!
SECONDS LATER.
IT-- IT'S OVER! BUT WHO COULD HAVE--
BLAZE! YOU OKAY?
WAIT! UP ON THAT CATWALK!

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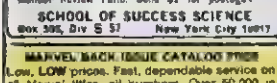

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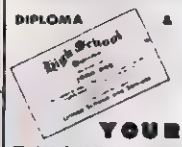

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BLAZE! WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
THAT'S JUST WHAT I AIM TO FIND OUT, CUC--!
B.T.
GONE!
BUT FIVE WILL GETCHA TEN, WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S WORKING FOR THE ENFORCER!
LATE THAT NIGHT, AT THE CHARLES L. DELAZNY ESTATE..
I'M TIRED OF WAITING FOR THE ENFORCER TO TIP HIS HAND!
IT IS TIME THE GHOST RIDER WRESTED FROM DELAZNY WHATEVER SECRET HE HIDES!
SUDDENLY..
LORDS OF HELL! THE FOUNTAIN--!
WATER HAMMERING ME LIKE A BATTERING RAM!

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NO ONE KNEW I WAS COMING HERE! HOW COULD MY MYSTERIOUS ATTACKER BE LYING IN WAIT?
UNLESS... DELAZNY IS THE ENFORCER AND KNEW I SUSPECTED!
AN AXE OF SOLIDIFIED WATER--!
WATERY HAND... CRUSHING ME..
BUT--I GOT TO CONCENTRATE! USE HELLFIRE!
VAPORIZE THE AXE!
DID IT! NON--
--THE GHOST RIDER WILL BE HELD NO LONGER!
BEWARE MORTAL! I WILL FIND YOU-- AND YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS COWARDLY ATTACK!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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A XYLOGRAPH OF XENIAL XENAGOGUES AND XENODOCHIAL XERRIFS!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Okay, gang— this one's too exciting to keep for another minute! Every time I speak at some college or convention someone's sure to ask me: "Hey, when are you gonna write some more comic books?" or, "How about you and Kirby teamin' up again?" Well, I don't really have time to write a regular steady mag anymore, but— Jolly Jack and I have been itchin' to team up for one big, juicy, super-sensational project— and we've finally got it! Yep! The contracts are being written, right now! We're planning to write and draw the world's largest and greatest comic-book story— a hard cover edition, to be published by Simon & Schuster, an original novel-length epic adventure of— THE SILVER SURFER! It'll be the toughest project we've ever attempted, 'cause everyone'll be waiting for it— and it can't as great as we hope it'll be, people'll start saying "Aww, that guy Lee is over the hill!" or, "Lee and Kirby— big deal!" So you can bet we'll do everything we can to make it the absolutely all-time most stupendous illustrated saga ever produced! It'll be on sale towards the end of '77, so start saving your shekels now— if one single copy remains unsold, we'll know that one of you goofed! And, while you're waiting, you needn't despair— there are still a few thousand copies of BRING ON THE BAD GUYS waiting for you to give 'em a home. Just go to your nearest book store, look intelligent, and yell "Make Mine Marvel!" And, if you play your cards right, you might also be able to find a combo pack of ORIGINS and SON OF ORIGINS as well. In fact, if you wanna buy 'em in a real fun place, and you happen to be near New Jersey's Livingston Mall, drop in to the new Super-hero Shop where you can get all of Marvel's toy, game, and novelty goodies. But now, before you start thinking we're tryin' to sell you something, let me give you something to worry about. King Kirby lives in California, and I hang my little pointy hat in New York. That means we're gonna have to collaborate on creating the world's greatest single comic book while we're 3,000 miles apart! And you think you've got troubles? Anyway, I'll issue a progress report here in ye olde Soapbox from time to time, so you can see how we're doing. Well, now that I've told you all about the upcoming SILVER SURFER sensation, maybe I oughtta tell Kirby. He hates to be the last to know! And now— till next month, Believer, keep your surfboard shiny and always, remember: Gardez le foil

Excelsior!

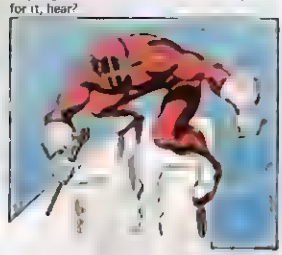
ITEM! The snowy winds of winter may be blowing when you read this, but as your loyal armadillo hunts and pecks his way through these newsworthy notes, it's still Indian summer. And that's the time of one of the biggest events in all of comics, namely the annual World Comic Convention at Lucca, Italy. For four frantic days, thousands of fans from all over the globe gather to attend panels, symposiums, and exhibits honoring the top creators in the comic book/comic strip field. Among those honored in the past has been our own arch-enemy leader STAN "The Man" LEE. This year JACK "King" KIRBY has been chosen as one of the guests of honor and is attending the convention with his wonderful wife ROSALIND. We couldn't be happier. The guy who, through the countless comics he's created, has enabled the rest of us to travel to such far-flung places as the Negative Zone, Asgard, and Ego's bioverse is finally getting time off from the drawing board to do some traveling himself! It's about time, Jack. Just don't forget to come back... you're the only one (outside of THE ETERNALS) who can keep those Celestials off our backs!

ITEM! Department of Deja Vu: January is the month when MARVEL PREVIEW featuring MAN-GOD hits your newsstand. You say you have the feeling you've read that bit of news before? All right. We confess. The *last* time when we announced the contents of the up-coming issue of our $1.00 size black and white sampler book, it was supposed to be MAN-GOD, the oft-postponed Roy Thomas and Tony DeZuniga awesome adaptation of Phillip Wylie's GLADIATOR. No sooner had we committed ourselves in print then a large section of the recently completed pages disappeared in transit into the myriad byways of the United States mail. When finally they emerged safely, if somewhat frayed around the edges, we'd already been forced to substitute the LEGION OF MONSTERS. Now, it's time to try again. MAN-GOD has to hold a record as one of our most promised, most postponed projects ever. Have we finally beaten the curse that seems to haunt it? Only your local newsstand knows for sure.

ITEM! While we're mentioning the bombastic creations of our hustling black and white department, let's get in an early plug for the newest title in that line, THE RAMPAGING HULK. The second sensational issue will be on sale next month and has our grim goliath pitted against the original X-Men in yet another epic-length episode by DOUG MOENCH, WALT SIMONSON and ALFREDO ALCALA. All that, plus a blazing BLOODSTONE back-up feature. Watch for it!

ITEM! On the personal front, let's welcome Shimmering SHARON ING, all around aide to our Vice President of Operations, Jolly SOLLY BRODSKY. And we can also say welcome *back* to 'Nuff Said NELSON YOMTOV, peerless production prince for our reprint line and sure-handed third baseman on the Bullpen softball team. Nollie just returned tan and fit from two weeks vacation in Hawaii, an object of envy for every pale and flu ridden armadillo on the staff. Fortunately, nice guy that he is, Nol brought back pineapples and slipped them into the cages so even our overworked bullpeeners could have a *taste* of island life (ouch!). Meanwhile, even *before* receiving his pineapple, ace inker, Fearless FRANK GIACOIA was beaming happily. And it's no wonder, since he's filled with pride for his youngest daughter, MARGARET, who was just recently married. Our best and warmest to both of you, Frank!

ITEM! By the time you're reading this, you probably will already have heard about THE HUMAN FLY. No, not the villain who debuted in last year's SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL. The fella we're talking about is an actual daredevil who specializes in the kind of hair-raising stunts usually reserved for the super-types cavorting through the pages of our comics, and who will probably be in for some network TV coverage about the time this reaches you. But even if by chance you're one of those rare and resolute souls who refuses to watch the tube, you're *still* going to be hearing about THE HUMAN FLY, because merry Marvel's about to launch a very special comic book series based on this real-life super-hero. The stories are going to be fictional, but the background we'll draw upon is the Fly's own, and it's as exciting and incredible as any fictional adventurer's life ever was. As the book takes shape, we'll be keeping you informed of all the details. This is going to be an unusual one, so stay alert for it, hear?



ITEM! And as long as we're filling you in on future developments, let's look way ahead to next summer and finish with a rundown of what's in store in the way of 50¢ King-size Annuals. In no particular order, they are: THE INCREDIBLE HULK, CAPT. AMERICA, HOWARD THE DUCK, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, MASTER OF KUNG FU, THE DEFENDERS, THOR, THE ETERNALS, FANTASTIC FOUR, INVADERS, IRON MAN, MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE (which co-stars SPIDEY with the book's ever lovin' blue-eyed host), AVENGERS, and CONAN THE BARBARIAN. Work's already started on some of them, and we think we've got a few pleasant surprises for you. We'll be revealing one or two of them next month. See you then.

STAN LEE PRESENTS

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MY TINGLING SPIDER SENSE TELLS ME THERE'S GOING TO BE A BIG FIGHT TONIGHT AND NOT JUST BETWEEN THE BOXERS.
ALDO MOOMJAY IS ABOUT TO FINISH HIS FALL TO THE CANVAS AFTER A KNOCKOUT PUNCH BY HIS OPPONENT...
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I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO CATCH A CHAMP IN ACTION!
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YOU'RE THE ONLY REF I KNOW WHO CAN ONLY COUNT TO TWO.
HOW DID YOU KNOW, WALL-CRAWLER?
SO ENJOY THE FUDGY ICING WHILE YOU CAN KEY-... BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING FROM A RING TO A SQUARE. A SQUARE WITH BARS ON IT.
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THERE HE IS... LETTING ME SEE HIM-- DARING ME TO ATTACK HIM!
AND I WILL-- BUT MUCH FASTER THAN HE SUSPECTS!
BLAST IT! HE'S GETTING BACK ON THAT TRICK BIKE!
GOT TO GET AROUND THE CORNER BEFORE HE REACHES ME OR I'VE HAD IT!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THE POWER OF HELL, MORTAL!
OH, NO! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT BEHIND HIS MANSION--
"--DELAZNY WOULD HAVE A POOL!"
READY TO DIE, BIKE-JOCKEY?
WASN'T PREPARED! GOT TO SWERVE-- GUN IT! TRY TO AVOID--
--THE TIDAL WAVE!
UHH-H!

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UHHGH! SURVIVED... INITIAL IMPACT! GOT TO STRIKE... BEFORE HE PRESSES... ADVANTAGE!
WHA--?! NO FLAME-THROWING GADGET CAN WORK UNDER WATER! HOW--?
EEYAHHH!
F-FLAMES C-COLD-- BUT FEELS LIKE MY SOUL IS ON FIRE!
SOMEBODY-- H-HELP ME! PLEASE!
THE GHOST RIDER FALLS AND LIES STILL, HIS GHOSTLY POWERS EBBING WITH HIS CONSCIOUSNESS...
FOR A MOMENT, THE GROUNDS OF THE MANSION ARE QUIET AGAIN. THEN THE TALL FOREBODING FIGURE OF CHARLES L. DELANEY STRIDES FROM THE SHADOWS...
YOU WERE A FOOL TO COME HERE, BLAZE-- AND IT'S GOING TO COST YOU YOUR LIFE!
UHHH!
HELLFIRE DID IT! HE'S BEATEN-- BUT THE WAVE-- STILL CARRYING ME-- TOWARD THE WALL!

NEXT ISSUE: I, THE ENFORCER...!

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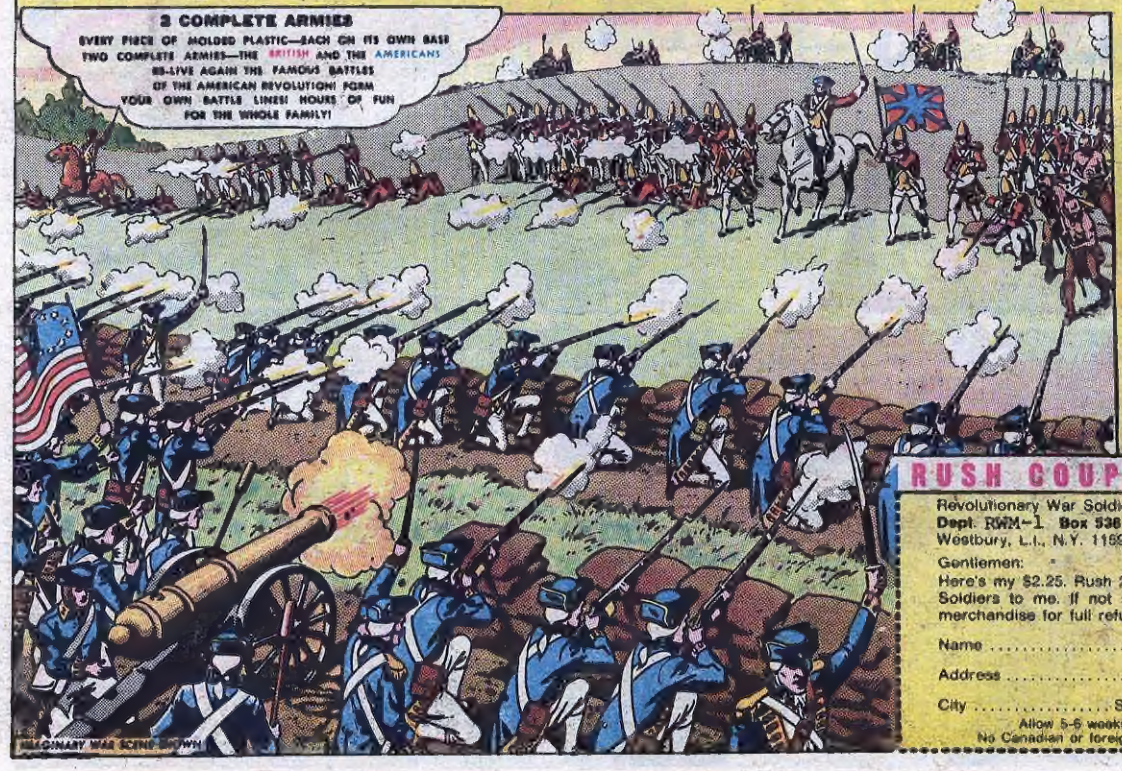
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Phaser

AH 3 $2.96

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